

SOLVING THE STATE'S BUDGET CRISIS

DIRK KEMPTHORNE HOW \$200 MILLION IN FURTHER CUTS COULD DECIMATE SERVICES

After two years of cuts and base reductions as high as 10% in state government, Idaho is still confronted with a \$200 million gap for FY04. To balance the budget as required by the Constitution, making further cuts and slashing government services is an option but it has serious implications. Considering the size of the state general fund revenue shortfall, meeting the bottom line with further cuts alone will cripple the state's ability to meet the needs of citizens.

To solve the problem with cuts alone, we could be forced to:

Eliminate ALL General Fund support to:

Education Support:

County Research and Extension Offices	\$23.8 million
Community Colleges	\$19.8 million
Public Broadcasting	\$2.2 million
Special Programs (Student Financial Aid)	\$9.7 million

Health and Human Services:

Catastrophic Health Care Fund	\$11.4 million
Health Districts	\$9.7 million

Economic Development Agencies

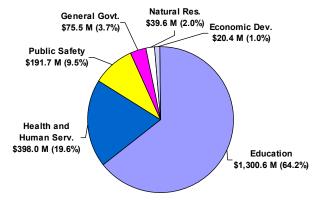
Department of Agriculture	\$9.7 million
Department of Commerce	\$6.5 million
Department of Labor	\$500,000
All Self-Governing Agencies	\$3.7 million

Environmental Programs and Natural Resource Agencies

Department of Environmental Quality	\$15.9 million
Department of Lands	\$4.9 million
Department of Parks and Recreation	\$8.6 million
Idaho Department of Water Resources	\$10.5 million
Soil Conservation Commission	\$3.9 million

Additional Across the Board Cuts

Even after making such drastic cuts and eliminating important services, there would still be a shortfall which would require slashing ALL remaining agencies, including senior programs, Veterans Services, and Medicaid. It would also require cutting public schools and higher education by close to \$70 million.



Total Expenditures: \$2.025 Billion

FY 2004 General Fund Budget by Category